viz., "ship—un vaisseau; ship—bon marche; and ship—un mouton."[1]

September 7th, 1796.

I have learnt from Huskisson that the French have sent over a plan of *cartel*, and Nepean informs me I am to be sent to France on the subject. Ministers have ordered all prisoners on parole to be confined, by way of retaliation for Sir Sidney Smith.

Lord Malmesbury is appointed minister plenipotentiary to negotiate peace at Paris. Lord Spencer would not ask for me to go under Lord M.'s passport, as the missions are distinct. My salary is fixed at two pounds a day and one hundred guineas for a secretary, and all travelling expenses allowed, except "journeys within fifty miles of Paris."[53]

1 This is almost as good as the story told of the artist who, on being desired by a rich Shropshire squire to enliven the picture of his castle and park with a few "*ship*" (Anglice, sheep), took his patron at his word and painted a fine squadron of two-deckers, at anchor, on a small piece of water scarcely deep enough to float a swan.

2 Mr. Swinburne had just received his appointment as commissioner for the exchange of prisoners.